

Ray Presents

(Continued from page 4)

going to make motion picture direction his vocation; and I was assured, that with young Buchan this motion picture business is a serious one; and that he intends to stay right with it.

Young Buchan has produced and appeared in plays, amateur theatricals. He is writing also, book reviews, but under a nom de plume, still undiscovered. He thinks that Mr. Hitchcock made "The Thirty-Nine Steps" as good as it could be made; and judging by the reports from Canada, the United States, reports here in Great Britain, it is good enough to be REAL. BOX OFFICE.

I asked young Buchan what he thought of picture criticisms in England, and he replied that he thought they were too much from the academic, or critical point of view, not enough knowledge of the film-making back of them.

I very soon found that out for myself, after a few weeks in England. We discussed Laurence Olivier, who plays the lead in "Moscow Nights". Buchan agrees with me that he gives a better performance than Harry Baur, and that Olivier's performance as "Romeo", in the Geilgud stage production of "Romeo and Juliet" is a marvellous interpretation.

In fact, young Buchan believes that Laurence Olivier is one of England's best film, as well as stage actors. I agree with him. Olivier has good looks, not too handsome, but exceedingly good-looking, good figure, good speaking voice, and he can act. Olivier should make a big film name.

WHEN I saw the Geilgud "Romeo and Juliet" production, Olivier was "Romeo" and Geilgud was "Mercutio". It was a perfect combination, but the following week, Geilgud was "Romeo", and Olivier was "Mercutio", a change over which the "legit" critics raved, but I guess I am an illegitimate critic, for I did not rave at the change, for I thought that Geilgud made a better "Mercutio" than a "Romeo".

Incidentally, John Geilgud is a wizard, he is appearing in his own production of "Romeo and Juliet" at the New Theatre, a lengthy and most profitable run, and also in the picture for Alfred Hitchcock, "The Secret Agent".

It was past six o'clock, when Geilgud left the studio, and he had "Romeo" to play that evening. The production of "Romeo and Juliet" followed his long run in his own production, called "Noah"; and had you seen this production, and Geilgud as "Noah", you would agree with me, that real histrionic ability is again with us, and that the days of David Garrick, of Booth, of Kean, of Barret, Richard Mansfield, Louis James, Sir John Forbes-Robertson are still possible.

I STOOD before the monument of Sir Henry Irving at London, and thought, is it possible that it is thirty years since this player and producer has passed on to the Eternal Stage? Sir Henry Irving died in 1905; and remembering him, I thought of lovely Ellen Terry, to whom, by the way John Geilgud is related.

Edna Evans is the nurse in the Geilgud production of "Romeo and Juliet", and what a marvellous nurse she is, although never shall I forget Ellen Terry as "nurse" to Doris Kean's "Juliet", following the revival run of "Romance" at London, 1919. I believe that Ellen Terry played no more upon the stage following this engagement, her memory was not too good then, but how the people here adored her; when she forgot a line, the evening I was there, someone in the audience prompted her, and Ellen Terry took up the cue, and said, "Quite right, it was the ring she bade me give you."



ND now, we are to have a new "Juliet", Norma Shearer in that eternally favorite role. She will make a lovely "Juliet", and should give a perfect interpretation, for her voice is soft of speech, and melodious. Leslie Howard will be most interesting as "Romeo", one caught a glimpse of Romeo's poetic joyousness in his "Elusive Pimpernel".

Reports give us John Barrymore, as "Mercutio", if he hasn't an idea that he is young enough for "Romeo", his "Mercutio" will have mettle. I remember John Barrymore, prior to his Motion Picture days, as "Hamlet", certainly one of the best, and by the way I saw some Hamlet film tests of John Barrymore, and I thought they were excellent.

Edna May Oliver as the "nurse", already makes me feel happy, you will remember and know every scene in which she appears; and I prophesy that the "nurse" will add another star to the Oliver crown.



ND now, I have been carried away by memories, and the coming Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production of "Romeo and Juliet"; and have not finished what I desire to say about young William Buchan. You will be interested to know what this lad looks like. A typical English boy, round face, hair that any peroxide blonde would envy for colour, real, real fair, pink and white complexion, high-strung, earnest, shy, very blue eyes, already at nineteen, taking life very seriously.



R. S. Bell Passes

THE death of Mr. R. S. Bell of United Artists, was the first death among the Film Exchange managers in Saint John, and all exchanges closed for the time of Mr. Bell's funeral. The service was held at Brenan's Funeral Home, the Hebrew Community taking charge. The burial took place at the Hebrew Cemetery. Much sympathy was extended Mrs. Bell from many parts of Canada, and everything possible done to assist her in this sad occasion. She left for her home in Winnipeg shortly after the funeral.

William Randolph Hearst in Conjunction with Warner Bros. to Launch Television within Year

Conklin in Winnipeg

Winnipeg Picture Preferences - 1935

THE best pictures shown in Winnipeg in the year ending December 31, according to a newspaper canvass, with the title of the picture, the star or stars, and the theatre in which it was first shown, follows:

Best all-round picture of the year — Paramount's "Lives of a Bengal Lancer" — Gary Cooper, Sir Guy Standing, Franchot Tone — Metropolitan.

Best classic—M-G-M's "David Copperfield"—Freddie Bartholomew, W. C. Fields, Lionel Barrymore and others —Metropolitan.

Best musical comedy — M-G-M's "Naughty Marietta" — Jeannette MacDonald, Nelson Eddy — Metropolitan.

Best emotional picture — Paramount's "Imitation of Life" — Claudette Colbert — Lyceum.

Best crime action picture — Warner Bros. "G Men" — James Cagney — Garrick.

Best British picture — Gaumont-British "Sanders of the River" — Paul Robeson, Leslie Banks—Metropolitan.

Best photography — Gaumont-British "Man of Aran" — Capitol.

Most impressive performance — Charles Laughton as Bligh in M-G-M's "Mutiny on the Bounty"—Metropolitan. Victor McLaglen—"The Informer"—Lyceum.

Best vaudeville screen production — M-G-M's Broadway Melody of 1936" — Eleanor Powell, Jack Benny — Metropolitan.

Best child's picture — M-G-M's "Sequoia" — Jean Parker — Capitol.

The year's best child actor — Freddie Bartholomew.

Year's most sensational screen discovery — Eleanor Powell, who danced her way to fame and fortune in "Broadway Melody of 1936".

Year's biggest flop — Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., in "The Private Life of Don Juan".

CHANGES in the rules and regulations governing the operation of motion picture projection machines and cinema theatres will be made shortly by the Manitoba government in order to modernize the rules in keeping with the advent of the talking picture.

The rules and regulations as drawn up by the board of examiners under Edward McGrath, Secretary of the Bureau of Labor, were the subject of a conference between the board and a deputation of exhibitors of the province, Thursday at the legislative buildings. As a result a few amendments were authorized.

As amended the rules and regulations will be submitted to the government for approval by order-in-council. Members of the board of examiners are Mr. McGrath, chairman; George Graham, representing the exhibitors, and Victor Armand, the cinema projectors.

KEN FINLEY, who was in Winnipeg for a time, attached to Famous Players staff, is now with Loew's Theatre, Montreal.

MY best wishes to many friends in Eastern Canada who made me the recipient of beautifully expressed Christmas greetings. I heartily reciprocate their kindly sentiments and wish them all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Bob Richardson, now in Yorkton where he is successfully operating a talking picture theatre, was among those who sent greetings to Winnipeg friends.

20th Century-Fox 1936 Building Program to Include 5 New Sound Stages

The Gaumont-British Production of "Rhodes" Starring Canadian-Born Walter Huston



Rhodes, before "Lobengula", — Basil Sydney as Dr. Jamieson. Ndanisa Kumalo, of the Royal House, blood relative of "Lobengula". Rhodes, "Tell the king I am English and a servant of the great White Queen".

Governor-General and the Lady Tweedsmuir Attend Screening "The 39 Steps"

Reprinted from The Citizen, Ottawa, Sat., Jan. 4, 1936.

THEIR Excellencies Baron and Lady Tweedsmuir and members of the diplomatic corps of Ottawa attended a showing of the well known film, '39 Steps', which was taken from the book of the same name by John Buchan, at the Rideau Theatre last night.

This is the first time that the Governor-General has seen the screen version of his book in its entirety. While in England he saw part of the film, but had been unable to see the whole performance, and he welcomed the opportunity to view it in Ottawa. He expressed his pleasure at the arrangements made for his reception in the theatre.

Accompanying Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir was a party of twelve. Also present were M. Rene Turck, French charge d'affaires; Sir Francis Floud, British high commissioner to Canada; Hon. Norman Armour, U.S. minister to Canada; Luigi Petrucci, Italian consul-general, and Hon. S. Kato, minister, Japanese legation.

A party of motorcycle police were in attendance."

THE year 1935 has been remarkable for the excellence of the talking pictures presented in Winnipeg. More big productions have come this way than in any other like period since the development of the talking picture. And, if we are to take the announcement of the Toronto film agencies at their face value for productions, 1936 is likely to be well up to this year's mark.



Show Business



"First a Girl" Returns Griffith Jones as Lead

Griffith Jones, the sober and responsible twin who upheld the honor and finances of Elizabeth Bergner and Hugh Sinclair in "Escape Me Never", now makes his second American film appearance as the handsome hero of G-B's "First a Girl", starring Jessie Matthews, at the Roxy.

Supporting Miss Matthews and Griffith Jones are Sonnie Hale, Anna Lee, Alfred Drayton, and Donald Stewart. Victor Saville directed.

M-G-M Prepares to Pick 68 Chinese for "Good Earth"

A total of 68 characters must be chosen before cameras can turn on scenes in "The Good Earth", Pearl Buck's epic story of China, which Irving G. Thalberg is to produce at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Victor Fleming is to direct the picture, in which thousands of Chinese characters are to appear in farm scenes, city scenes and others showing the teeming population of the Orient.

During the week of January 6th, Edward Sutherland, who directed "Diamond Jim" for Universal starts production of "Dracula's Daughter" at Universal City. The title role will be played by Jane Wyatt and Bela Lugosi will have his original role of Count Dracula. Edward Van Sloan, that eminent vampire crusader, will naturally take up his protective arts again in this picture.

Metro Filming Van Dine Novel

With the ink hardly dry on the first edition of the novel, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer last week began filming "The Garden Murder Case", newest of S. S. Van Dine's stories of the sensational exploits of the scientific detective, Philo Vance.

Edmund Lowe, long a reigning screen favorite, plays Vance. As an indication of his popularity, it is the eighth photoplay in which he has appeared this year.

Virginia Bruce, H. B. Warner, who has just scored a decisive hit in "A Tale of Two Cities," and Jessie Ralph, whose work as Nurse Peggotty in "David Copperfield" will be long remembered, are other important members of the notable cast, which includes Nat Pendleton, Gene Lockhart, Etienne Girardot, Kent Smith and Robert McWade.

"As You Like It" is to be Produced by M-G-M

"As You Like It", one of Shakespeare's greatest romantic comedies, and which on the stage served as a starring vehicle for many famous actresses, is to come to the talking screen.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer this week announced plans to produce it on a lavish scale. Ethel Borden is engaged on the screen adaptation, and it is planned as the first Shakespearean drama to follow "Romeo and Juliet", which Irving G. Thalberg is producing with Norma Shearer and Leslie Howard starred.

"Captain Blood" Plays to Capacity Business

"Captain Blood", which opened at the Strand Theatre on Christmas morning for an extended engagement, is doing capacity business there. The box office records show receipts far in excess of any others on Christmas Day for the past five years. Similar reports of record-breaking business have come in from Boston (where the picture is showing at two theatres, the Fenway and the Paramount, simultaneously), and from other cities where it has opened. "Captain Blood", a Cosmopolitan production for First National release, was nationally released last Saturday. Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland head the cast. The picture is based on the famous romance by Rafael Sabatini. It opened at the Uptown, Toronto, January 2nd.

"The Lady Consents" is Final Release Title

"The Lady Consents" is the final release title of the new domestic drama in which Ann Harding and Herbert Marshall are co-starring for RKO Radio. The original story, by P. J. Wolfson, was called "The Indestructible Mrs. Talbot."

A distinguished cast supports the co-stars. It includes Margaret Lindsay, Walter Abel, Edward Ellis, Hobart Cavanaugh, Ilka Chase and Paul Porcasi. Stephen Roberts is directing, from a screen adaptation by Anthony Veiller.

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Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernstein — "A Night at the Opera", with the Marx Bros., Allan Jones and Kitty Carlisle, a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production. Second week.

TIVOLI—Manager D. Krendal — Two 20th Century-Fox features — Dick Powell in "Thanks a Million", and James Dunn in "Bad Boy".

UPTOWN—Manager Tom Daley — Warner Bros. "Captain Blood" with Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland.

IMPERIAL—Manager Jack Arthur — Joe Penner in "Collegiate", Paramount production, with Ned Sparks and Jack Oakie.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — "Stars Over Broadway", with Pat O'Brien, Jane Froman and Jean Muir, Warner Bros. production.

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